



Icebreaker

What's your favorite Christmas movie and why?

The Shepherds

Read Luke 2:8-20

On Sunday, we learned that the key to this story lies in the fact that shepherds were dirty, smelly, and poor; that they were literally "outsiders" in every sense of the word; and that the angels brought the message of the Savior to **them!** What does it mean to you that God sent his angels to these smelly outsiders?

Consider the message that God sent the shepherds through the angel. Three times, the angel said "to you" to the shepherds. Do you think that's important?

The angel also said that this message was to be good news of great joy for all people. It's interesting that God would bring a message this important to unimportant shepherds and also claim the message was for everyone. Why does God give important messages to unimportant people?

The angel said that the savior had been born that very day, and the shepherds immediately responded. Do people today respond to the good news as immediately? Why or why not?

The last phrase of the angelic message claimed that God would get more glory and people would get more peace. Do you think the last line means God's peace will fall on the people he likes or do you think it means his peace will fall on everyone because he likes everyone?

If these shepherds were familiar with the temple practices, they would have known that unblemished sacrificial lambs were often wrapped in cloth at birth and placed in a manger filled with hay to prevent them from injuring themselves. If these shepherds knew that, how do you think the story of Jesus in a manger would have affected them?

Take it Home

The end of the story has the shepherds telling everyone they can about what had happened. Who is someone you can tell?



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